

House News

Georgia House of Representatives - October 2005



A Season of Change

Leaves are falling, the weather is cooling, and we find ourselves in the middle of football season. Probably the most noticed season of change is fall, and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Around the Capitol there's more change occurring than just the weather. This past spring, our leadership sewed the seeds of progress to bring the Georgia House into the 21st century, and now we are about to harvest the fruits of that decision.

We spent the summer dodging loose wires, and hearing the sounds of construction, only to wonder how all of this change will affect what and how we do our jobs. In the upcoming months, we will have the answer. This new House is going to be something to see, enjoy and admire.

Usually when an institution decides to update and implement new technology, it means less and less personal interaction for the people who utilize the new means. When we created this newsletter it was an attempt to make sure that during all of the technological change, the staff of this House would have a medium to keep the staff connected. I can only hope that we have achieved success.

Everyone knows that change is difficult. We get used to doing things a certain way, and we say "if it ain't broke, don't

fix it." However, I must disagree with that thought. I'm extremely proud of our leadership for making the decision to try and make everyone's job a little easier, a little more efficient, and a little more effective. For the most part, this staff has been great in accepting the changes we've seen so far. Rest assured, there is more to come.

Many of the endeavors we have planned for the next session have never been done before, by any legislature in this country. The State of Georgia has always been a leader, not a follower. Everyone knows that this is the greatest state in the country; we definitely have the best staff. Now with these changes, the rest of the country will be playing catch up for years to come. Now that's something I think we can all be proud of, don't you?



| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Birthdays | Page 2 |
| From Jay | Page 2 |
| Employee Spotlight | Page 3 |
| Educate Yourself | Page 3 |
| Words of Wisdom A Fresh Face | Page 4 |



Newsletter Contacts:

Gina McKinney - 404.656.5020
Brent Cranfield - 404.656.0305



OCTOBER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Riley Lowry | 1st |
| Jackie Rowe | 5th |
| Pam Norwood | 10th |
| Cheryl Jackson | 12th |
| Betty Swaim | 13th |
| Michelle Hitt | 15th |
| Valerie Phipp-Jewell | 20th |
| Phil Tucker | 22nd |
| Jan Brown | 23rd |
| Jay Walker | 25th |
| Shriley Nixon | 29th |



From the Chief-of-Staff

GRADUATING WITH HONORS

The pursuit of knowledge and learning should always be forefront in our lives, and this last month it was. As new computers arrived in many legislative offices, many of you participated in a round of training classes designed to help us serve the people of Georgia and our elected officials in a more efficient manner. I have heard a lot of positive feedback about how helpful these classes were to everyone and it is my hope that we will continue to learn to be a more productive team.



Many thanks to each of you who participated in the training sessions and to those who worked so hard to make each class a success. As we move closer to the next legislative session, I believe that this training will make us a better staff and will enable us to better serve our state.



Employee Spotlight!

SHARONE CARPENTER
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Ask any professional athlete how they want to be remembered - how they want to retire. They will tell you that they want to go out on top, achieving everything that they set out to do. That's not a dream that is confined to only athletes, but it is unusual to find it in government. Most of us don't think of our jobs in those terms. As the Executive Secretary for the Speaker of the House, Sharone Carpenter was able to achieve the same the dream.

Working for six different minority leaders, from 1985 to 2004, there was one constant in that office, Sharone. She spent almost her entire career in governmental service. Hired by former Minority Leader, and now U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson on a trial basis, it didn't take long to see how invaluable she was and would be to this legislature.

"It was a family, and a close knit group. Every morning I would come into work to hear Johnny saying, 'Good morning sunshine,

you brighten up the day,'" said Sharone. "I was never treated like just a secretary."

After more than twenty years in the legislative office building, she had planned on retiring after the resignation of Lynn Westmoreland as Minority Leader, but she felt that she would be missing out on the possibility of moving across the street. Most of the time we come to work, give our eight hours, collect our paychecks, and can't wait to get back to our families, as well we should. But after knowing and talking with Sharone, there is a valuable lesson that doesn't have anything to do with politics. It's about family. Her caucus and this House were a family. Today, there are still Republicans and Democrats, but for the most part, there is the House. That's my family, and I'm thankful that for my first session I had a 'mother' like Sharone.

- Brent Cranfield

Educate yourself!

Now that computer training is over we hope that each of you have a better understanding of Word and Outlook. Challenge yourself to play with it whenever possible and try to learn what you were taught but also try to walk yourself through one new thing each day! The online tutorials that Microsoft offer are great.

Attached to this newsletter you will find a Mandatory Survey regarding the computer training you participated in October 3rd - 7th. Please print the attached form and mail it to Patrick Mayer in the Speaker's office as soon as possible.

Words of Wisdom

Debbie Lynn

Began working for the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1978 thru 1982

Started with the Georgia House in 1982

Began working for Representative Jack Connell -
Speaker Pro Tem in 1983 - 2002

Worked for Speaker Terry Coleman - 2003-2004

Currently with Speaker Pro Tem Mark Burkhalter
- 2005

“In matters of principle we need to be together...
in matters of opinion we need to be flexible...AND
IN ALL MATTERS WE NEED TO HAVE RESPECT
FOR ONE ANOTHER”

This was the topic of a sermon I heard many years ago and it is so important in the workplace. When you think about it - it is so true. We should all have the same core values in how we do our job and of course we all have different opinions on how things should run in the workplace - BUT having respect for who we work for and with is the most important advice I can think of.

- Debbie Lynn

Georgia State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404.656.5020
404.656.5644
gmckinne@legis.state.ga.us
bcranfield@legis.state.ga.us

We're on the Web!

www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm

A Fresh Face...

Jennifer Nirenberg

Don't think that Georgia politicians have anything in common with terrorists? They do now.

This graduate of both the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech first joined the House as a legislative aide during the 2001 and 2002 sessions, and now joins the revamped House Research Office.

Recruited by the C.I.A. while at Georgia Tech studying International Affairs, Jennifer traveled to Langley, VA, to be an analyst covering terrorist activities in Europe. One of her first assignments was to uncover the assailants who bombed the subway system in Madrid, Spain. I wonder who is more intimidating, George Tenet or Glenn Richardson. I guess we'll see.

Researching policy for the Banks & Banking and Insurance Committees might not hold international implications as of yet, but give Jennifer time. She's only been on the job for about five weeks. Oh, and if anyone on the House staff is involved in terrorist activities, I suggest you head for the hills because our new research analyst just might be paying you a visit.

- Brent Cranfield

